WISDOM of SOLOMON

Secrets From The Richest Man Who Ever Lived

WINTERVEE

Ambition • Abundance • Adventure

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THE FIRST WISDOM: DILIGENCE

There was once a rabbit who teased its neighbor, a short-footed and slow-paced tortoise. Over the course of the teasing, the tortoise finally laid down a wager that despite Rabbit's ability to run like the wind, Tortoise could win the race. Of course, Rabbit continued to roll around on the ground with continued laughter at the absurdity of the proposal. Still, Tortoise insisted. And Rabbit could see there was seriousness in his short-footed and slow-paced-friend's face.

With that, Rabbit accepted the wager, on the condition that the neighborhood Fox choose the course and goal. The Rabbit knew the Fox would make a path fit for a rabbit. So, on the day of the race, Fox started the race and Tortoise immediately began diligently plodding along the preset path towards the finish line.

Rabbit, meanwhile, chose to take a nap. He was near the finish line as there was only another interval remaining. The Tortoise was far back in the distance, after all, and Rabbit had plenty of time to win the race. With time, Rabbit woke from his slumber. It was too late that Rabbit noticed Tortoise was stepping across the finish line with Fox there to greet him. There was no time for Rabbit to respond.

You have probably heard of the story of the hare and the tortoise. The moral to this Aesop's Fable is that diligence to life's tasks results in a successful outcome, every time.

What do you think of when you think of diligence? Do you think of working hard?

Do you envision spending long hours at a task? Feeling exhausted just to sense that a job has been done fully?

Maybe you think of dedication, perseverance, determination, and persistence. You might have visions of pushing against all odds to get the job done. Or, diligence may create visions of an incentive you get by performing a difficult task. Conversely, you might see the costs for not being diligent.

Still, none of these fully describe the true meaning of diligence. The best person to resource for finding how to understand the depth of meaning to diligence was the wisest and richest man that ever lived on Earth. He came from Israel. His name was King Solomon, and he wrote several books of the Bible, including Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and parts of the Psalms. It is from Proverbs where much of his wisdom is clearly displayed.

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In Proverbs 22:29, King Solomon is quoted as saying, “Do you see a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before Kings.” He also states in Proverbs 20:11 “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his works be pure and whether it be right.”

Now, diligence was clearly something that King Solomon knew about. He ran an empire. He also oversaw gold and precious metal mine operations. It was from this earthy, mining operation that he drew many parallels. We might think the reference might be to a heart of purity. King Solomon was instead referencing in “works be pure” to testing one’s workmanship by fire to remove the impurities and perform dutiful work that is competent, effective, and practical.

Have you seen a child try to eat for the first few times with a spoon? It's a mess! Food goes everywhere. The child tries ignores the spoon and picks at the food.

Little pieces are pulled out of the bowl. Then, the bowl is picked up. Sometimes it does not make it to the mouth, and it goes down to the floor!

But, with time, the child grasps the concept of using the spoon. Then, the world opens up to the possibilities. Food enters the mouth faster. Less gets spilled. Diligence has demonstrated a smarter way of eating!

So it is with the true definition of diligence. You can work hard and get nothing done. Or, you can work smart and get the task done in a fraction of the time.

Is it considered diligent to slave away at a computer assignment for three days before handing it into the professor only to get a poor grade? Or, is it diligent to complete it in 6 hours after first contacting a mentor for hints on technique?

Then, you can apply those concepts to complete a superb project, and finish with a reward by going out with friends in town! But, then, with determination and cunning, there is also some plan.

That plan must have the shortest possible route to success. This makes the task efficient. It must work when it is completed. This makes it effective. And, it must be your very best effort. This reflects only your highest standards of performance. Both the description of the child with the spoon and the student and the homework assignment reflect these attributes.

The true definition of diligence is described in Proverbs by King Solomon, the story of the infant and the spoon, and the student and the homework assignment.

That definition of diligence is a talent that each person can learn. The talent of diligence involves blending a mixture of determination, using well-planned and well-thought-out methods to perform a task with some ingenuity, focusing on efficiency, applying effective methods that create only the highest standards of performance.

Benefits - For Having A Lifestyle Of Diligence

Golfers are known for their level of proficiency by how much, or rather how little, handicap they require when competing to remain on an even level with their partners. This handicap permits a more reasonable or even exchange as the count of holes is tallied. Still, in real life, does a handicap such as remaining within a comfort zone of being average benefit truly?

No. King Solomon observed in Proverbs 21:5, "The plans of the diligent surely lead to advantage." With diligence, you are accorded benefits. First among them is being ahead of the race in performance, achievement and success. This means having advantage over the others who are trying hard but are not being truly diligent. Advantage is an important benefit!

There is a difference, as earlier stated, between just trying hard and being truly diligent. Tortoise demonstrated the advantage of diligence when racing against Rabbit. The benefits of having the advantage bring better outcomes from working smarter.

The Marriott Corporation is known for its precision and premier service. It rehearses its staff giving them tips to perform their duties with class and style that are unique to Marriott. Each member understands that the client may have concerns with vanity, but more so with remaining focused on their business activities rather than the distractions of hotel functions. This precision is translated into employee pride and teamwork.

The result? The Marriott Corporation enjoys having the advantage among the hotel chains for their much sought after premium service that gets clients in and out the door efficiently, effectively, and effortlessly.

When Rabbit decided to take a nap on the last leg of the race course laid out by Fox, Rabbit made one very fatal mistake. Rabbit gave all control to his outcome to others and to circumstances rather than retaining full control for himself.

Tortoise seized the day, remained vigilant and slowly focused on the goal Fox had created. Tortoise never took his eyes off the prize.

Tortoise remained in control at all times. Control is your second benefit from applying faithful diligence. King Solomon, in Proverbs 12:24 documented more wisdom from his experiences by stating, "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor." Clearly, Solomon had seen people from all levels and stations in life and knew what resulted in success or not. Everyone desires to be in control of their lives. Nobody enjoys having a boss.

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The habit of giving control to others is a daily activity and robs the benefits of diligence. The boss from lack of control may be time or social media, or television, or addictions. Whatever the distraction or limitation is that keeps you from keeping your eye on the prize is your "boss." True diligence applies full control!

Materialism, commiseration, complaining, rationalization or dissatisfaction. These are the practices of a negative mindset that must soothe an unhappy soul. We are all born into a lifestyle, regardless the culture, which feeds on a mindset of negativism. "No" is the first word we hear when we are born. We then develop by learning when "not" to do rather than what we "should" do.

Except for a rare exception, we go about our lives without true positive, coaching forces. Then, when something happens, and there are a crossroads, we automatically assume the negative choice. I can't get into that college, I can't be with that person, I can't buy that item, and I can't do that thing.

To compensate for this upbringing, caused by culture and not by your parents, we use an assortment of compensation

mechanisms to coat and soothe our empty sensation by chasing empty things.

People, fame, materialism, relationships, addiction. No matter how much the emptiness is filled with more emptiness, it remains empty.

King Solomon wisely observed in Proverbs 13:4, "The soul of the diligent is made fat." This third benefit, a sense of joy, is yours when you apply true diligence. Tortoise enjoyed the peaceful smile of crossing the finish line after faithfully holding to the principles of diligence.

"Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank." That's what King Solomon states in Proverbs 22:29. In the business community, and for that matter, in most organized employer settings, managers know to look for the busiest staff member to promote or to ask to perform a new assignment. Why? That person is likely to succeed.

Positively-minded individuals are needed to perform tasks of true diligence. Described earlier was the negative mindset.

The truly diligent individual has mastered the skill of adopting positive thinking to overcome limitations. Commanders, leaders, managers, and executives gravitate to positive people. They are mostly positive-minded like King Solomon, as well!

True diligence benefits you with a healthy and appropriate response, called: respect. Tortoise certainly earned the respect from Rabbit after that race!

King Solomon spent an entire book, the Book of Ecclesiastes, writing about the vanities or futilities in life. In Ecclesiastes 12:8 he even remarked "vanity of vanities…all is vanity!" But, he had discovered what truly counted for success. Solomon discovered that chasing after promises of riches without exercising true diligence amounted to

vanity. Instead, in Proverbs 28:19 Solomon wrote, "He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he that follows vain persons is void of understanding."

Due diligence is a term used in business settings and real estate to research the proposed transaction for its integrity. Practicing due diligence requires research, interrogation, and an open-mind. President Reagan of the USA coined his form of due diligence in "Trust, but Verify" while dismantling the Cold War with the then USSR. It's hard work. But, in the end, the results are thorough and very satisfying. True diligence similarly benefits you with satisfaction.

In Proverbs 13:11 King Solomon wisely stated, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished but he that gathers by labor shall increase." Another benefit from true diligence is success, itself. This means living comfortably, providing for your needs, and achieving the goals that you create.

A central principle of true diligence is that you can create goals. Additionally, you can build a plan to bridge your milestones to reach those goals, and apply measuring tools now that you are slowly, but effectively improving to reach each milestone. Tortoise had a goal, unlike Rabbit. He focused on the plan, which was to stay the course methodically. Fox had designed the course with legs to measure success. The outcome was inevitable.

King Solomon's observance of the many vanities in life pointed most to the effects of ineffective talking without action.

Let's face it; we have all heard the phrase "talk is cheap." In Ecclesiastes 5:3, King Solomon was more pointed, "For a dream comes through the multitude of business, and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words." With dutiful, diligent work the benefit of profit is realized. Solomon also penned the words in Proverbs 14:23, "in all labor there is profit, but mere talking leads only to poverty."

Without overusing the Aesop's fable Rabbit was an animal of too many words and too little profit. Just as with success, application of a goal, plan and measuring system to assess milestones replaces the chaff of useless words with real action.

Penalties – For Ignoring Diligence

Some individuals respond better, given their unfortunate roots in negativism, to penalties, than to benefits. While this may seem punitive, it is still a form of "benefit" to review the penalties for ignoring diligence. By not ascribing true diligence to one or more of these factors, may affect your eventual outcome and is worth considering.

Superstorm Sandy struck the shores of New Jersey near Atlantic City in 2012. It flooded the subways of New York City for the first time in recorded history. The shoreline was irreparably damaged in places. Many lost their livelihoods from lack of insurance or disaster planning. Others, like the Huffington Post, managed to keep their online newspaper "online" and reporting news.

It did this by keeping a computer and generator, located at an elevated location, running by carrying bucketful's of gasoline up several flights of stairs through the night and day for several days.

That "perfect" storm measured from Florida to the north of Nova Scotia, Canada as it hit land. The differences in many of the stories that came from that event were in the preparation and planning.

King Solomon in Proverbs 21:5 observed, "The plans of the diligent do surely bring advantage, but whoever is hasty comes surely to poverty."

Taking the time to plan and be prepared for complications increases the chance of success. More importantly, it decreases the likelihood of having obstacles that place you at a disadvantage. King Solomon states in Proverbs 12:24, "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor."

The second penalty for ignoring diligence is handing over control to someone or something else. This was described, earlier, as a benefit for control, but the reverse is also true if you decide to give away that control.

King Solomon also noted a penalty for ignoring diligence results in a sense of endless craving. That craving is for those things that diligence provides: success, joy, fulfillment, control, and profit. He described that craving sensation in Ecclesiastes 2:17, "So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind." He further noted in Proverbs 13:4, "The soul of a sluggard craves, but he gets nothing."

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With true diligence, this craving is satisfied. King Solomon continues by identifying the penalty for ignoring diligence by missing a grasp on reality. Proverbs 28:19 states: "He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he that follows vain persons is void of understanding." Missing a grasp on reality is the same as lacking understanding.

On January 24, 1848, James Marshall was directing some construction at his boss, John Sutter's Mill when he noticed some gold flakes in the river. After the two men hit the metal to confirm it was not the brittle pyrite or "fool's gold" news quickly spread locally about quick riches. When then President James K. Polk gave a speech to Congress later in December news became national, and soon the famous "49er's" California Gold Rush was in wild abandon.

Most "49er's" walked away empty-handed. Clearly wealth obtained from such vain and futile means is laughable, now. But, today, people today do the same thing with smartphone apps, internet invitations, and in-person schemes. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished, but he that gathers by labor shall increase." Proverbs 13:11. Another penalty for ignoring diligence is losing what earnings you attempt to accumulate. Nothing. That's the final penalty for ignoring diligence. All that work will amount to absolutely nothing. King Solomon observed in Proverbs 14:23, "mere talk leads to poverty." Stated earlier, those who make a plan, have a plan to follow. Individuals who only talk and fail to plan are really planning to fail.

Requirements – To Have Diligence As An Active Part Of Your Life

You understand, now, there are very real benefits and penalties to true diligence. So, it makes sense to sort out the requirements to have diligence as an active part of your life. Addressing these requirements is essential to activating true diligence. Each overcomes the root cause for having an absence of true diligence: laziness. Proverbs 18:9 states, "He also who is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."

King Solomon wisely introduces the first requirement, open-mindedness. Proverbs 21:2 states, "Every man's way is right in his own eyes." True diligence requires you to get past your own self-centered focus and accept the point of view of others. You are not the final authority on intelligence, and you will always have something to learn.

Still, we live with natural tendencies to separate our identity from others to make our personality, behavior, and accomplishments unique. We always think and see things from our vantage point without actively redirecting our focus to walk in another person's shoes. Accepting another point of view is essential to opening up possibilities, seeing options, and enjoying better outcomes.

In King Solomon's second requirement, humility, he addresses the evil behavior of conceit. In some cultures, this is better-termed arrogance. "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason…" Solomon says in Proverbs 26:16.

You can certainly remember encountering a government office employee who has the power of the government behind their position when they respond to your request with, "NO." Still, you have to get your task or need completed. It does not matter. Regardless the tactic. No matter the attempted solution. That government employee will respond with one excuse after another to find a way to tell you the original answer, "NO." By this time, it does not matter whether you may have arrived at a workable solution. You have tweaked their behavior of arrogance. Nothing will prevent them from inventing new ways to say to you, "NO."

Humbling yourself before mentors, a spouse, a partner, a business team, or sponsor is the best way to keep in the proper frame of mind for true diligence. The humble individual is receptive. A faster learner. More adaptive.

King Solomon defines the third requirement as attentiveness. In Proverbs 24:30-31 Solomon pens, "I went by the field of the sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins." Lazy, ignorant, and irresponsible individuals do not have the third requirement, attentiveness.

Attentiveness is more than having your eyes open to see what might otherwise come while you are unaware. Attentiveness is studying about something before making a comment. Reading and taking classes on a regular basis. Truly diligent individuals know that knowledge doubles every five years in all subject areas. So, whatever the specialty you must be a faithful student every week.

King Solomon defines the fourth requirement as delayed gratification. Proverbs 20:4 states, "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." Most individuals desire results immediately. To wait for months, let alone years, is an impossible request. For Tortoise, who slowly stayed the course, delayed-gratification met with certain rewards.

Essential Phases – To Include Diligence As An Active Part Of Your Life

There are four essential phases to incorporating true diligence into your life. The first phase is to overcome the barrier of procrastination. King Solomon leaps out at us by asking in Proverbs 6:9-11, "How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."

Now is the accepted hour for your taking action. Waiting another hour or another day is too late. Begin now by making an action list, pick one from the list and just begin to work on that item. When that is done, begin working the next. Remaining in preparatory mode is fruitless.

Indeed, one must prepare. One must study. Still, those are actionable items to move towards the goal. Performing first one, and then the next is stepping forward to completing measurable milestones of the plan!

The second phase is to create a goal and a plan. King Solomon penned the famous verse in Proverbs 28:19, "Without a vision, the people perish." Your vision is visualizing your goal. Before you can do that, though, you must have taken ten to twenty hours writing a well-considered goal or purpose in life. This often requires some research similar to the due diligence described earlier. Then, visualization of your goal is similar to closing your eyes and peeling a lemon and tasting it without a real lemon in your hands.

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Proverbs 6:6-8 says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." If an ant can perform this second phase of creating a goal and a plan and then acting on it, so can you!

The third phase is to receive mentoring. King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, understood the value of mentors. Mentors, who serve as positive-mindset coaches, have already walked the pathway that you are about to walk. If they haven't done so directly, they have made a similar path. They understand you, and they understand your needs. Mentors are an invaluable resource for achieving true diligence.

King Solomon goes so far as to emphasize the real value of a mentor in Proverbs 15:22. "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Considering this input almost sounds like a warning to not attempt any success venture using diligence without ensuring that you factor in mentoring as your third phase!

It almost goes without saying that King Solomon would place seeking wisdom as the fourth and final phase. The wisest man who ever lived placed wisdom as the highest asset one could resource. "How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver," is what King Solomon thought of wisdom in Proverbs 16:16.

But what is wisdom? King Solomon dedicates all of Chapter 8 introducing wisdom. In Chapter 9 of Proverbs, wisdom is defined. Examples are taken from Proverbs 9:8-9, "Reprove not a scoffer, lest he hate thee; rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

Practice – To Introduce Diligence Into Your life

For this exercise, you will explore different facets of the requirements and phases to attain true diligence. The requirements addressed laziness. The phases addressed procrastination, creating a goal and plan, receiving mentoring, and seeking wisdom. These related limitations will be combined with the following diligence exercise.

Take ten minutes and write, in bullet form, no more (and no less than) 20 things. These things you have been thinking about over the past months or years that prevent you from being an effective, efficient, and productive person. These are the same things that, if completed, would mean the difference between your not having success and fully completing what you need to do in life. If you think you need more than ten minutes to get a grasp of what you need to do in life, then add time to make this decision, first.

Realize these 20 things may be tasks to see your end-point, but they should also include planning for learning assignments, linking with mentors, and designing your plan. They should also include features such as removing personal obstacles that you see distract you from your focus on the goal. Now, select the one item that is considered the most important…to you. It does not matter what item of the twenty bullets you select, but you must select ONE.

Now, commit to working on that bulleted item this morning. Do it first, before you do anything else! Then, work on that task or project until it is completed fully, and completed to your satisfaction. When you are satisfied, select another item of the remaining 19 and continue down the list. You are now demonstrating that you have conquered laziness, procrastination, creating a goal and plan, receiving mentoring, and seeking wisdom!

THE SECOND WISDOM: HOPE

King Solomon declared in Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Earlier, “vision” was established as the mind’s eye seeing what will be in the future as if it happened, now. Vision is the practice you use to confirm and solidify hope. Hope is most important in everyone’s lives.

Hope establishes purpose. Hope creates reason. Hope defines direction. Hope is that assured confidence that a defined vision will be realized or fulfilled by a pre-determined time. There is usually a goal or a promise affixed to hope to make it permanent.

King Solomon continued to emphasize the importance of turning your dreams into reality by writing in Proverbs 13:12, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but desire fulfilled is as a tree of life.” Why is it that each of us is so sad when we have no direction in life? Why do we brighten and have excitement when we know what our purpose and meaning is?

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Recall from chapter one the natural tendency for people to be self-centered. We need to create an identity that makes us different from anyone else. It’s only natural to think from a personal point-of-view.

This is acceptable to a point. We have to survive in a world that is not naturally supportive. Survival of the fittest is the rule of nature. But, nature is also dynamic.

Nature does not like to lie in a dormant state at any time. Whatever is dormant is cut off and removed so new growth can replace it.

We sense this in our minds. We are connected to the universe. Our subconscious mind, the portal to the universe, keeps us aligned with the universe and "one" with nature. So, we are only comfortable when we are in a dynamic and moving condition.

Consider a sailboat or even an airplane. They are useless when they are at rest. But, they have purpose when they are placed in motion. More importantly, they are placed in motion with direction using either a rudder or ailerons to get them to a destination. Similarly, our body's muscles are useless if they are not used. They wither and waste away without exercise and purpose. But with directional movement they strengthen and build.

So it is with hope. Nature demands of us a direction with movement. We are happy when we can see with vision the end-point of our goal. Dreams must be shifted to reality for hope to exist.

Hope Creates Motivation, The Drive You Need For Life

Hope features an interesting expectation, however, for it to successfully perform. The sailboat may have its rudder, and the airplane may have its ailerons and rudder, but they won't go anywhere without power. For a sailboat to "tack" forward it needs wind. For an airplane to fly it needs a propeller or a jet (unless it is a sailplane, of course, but then it is using the power of the wind!). All this power drives the movement closer toward the end-point.

So it is with hope. Inner inertia or motivation must power or drive you to get from the starting point to the next milestone and the next and so forth until you reach your destination. But, where does this motivation come from? Is it simply heat applied from below to get excited? No!

When you come home from a long day of work and your family asks you to clean out the garage how do you feel? Maybe the request is to repair a broken item that has been left waiting for the past one or two weeks. How do you feel? You don't have much motivation. The energy to get that task completed is filled with excuses and justifications for delay. There may even be gestures of giving an "easier" task as a replacement for that task just to satisfy the family.

But, instead, say you get a phone call while the family is coaxing you to complete this task. The call is to go to join your friends to play a ball game at the local park. It will include laughing and enjoying time together. It could also include taking your family. Instantly, you are motivated! But, you were still the same, exhausted person who came home from work only a few minutes ago. Motivation or inner drive can be controlled. It can be identified as a resource. The things that build drive for you are what you need to fire up and create your movement. Hope creates motivation. Hope with measured milestones gives a reachable and tangible vision to build drive.

Blocking Hope – Penalties For Preventing Inner Motivation

Restating King Solomon's words in Proverbs 13:12 he states, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but desire fulfilled is as a tree of life." Deferring or procrastinating is a blocking effect on hope. When you block hope you prevent inner motivation from percolating, naturally.

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Negativism is the most prevalent blocking habit for stifling inner motivation because it is culturally bred into our make-up, our very being. You know this in many forms. Complaining or commiserating is a common practice of negativism.

The job is not paying what it is worth. Soon, everyone in the department is complaining together or commiserating together. Negativism. If the job is not satisfactory, then make a goal to leave, develop a plan for how to leave, and then create milestones to see that you successfully realize your soon departure!

Rationalization is another common practice of negativism. So you think that living in your neighborhood limits your possibilities for income, job opportunities, and educational prospects? If so, this is rationalization. Where you were born or lived growing up may play a part in the pathway to getting what you want, but there are different options and pathways to reaching the goal. Create a plan to research and investigate other options.

Blaming is yet another practice of negativity. Our world is self-centered, after all, and to think that any event or condition could be our responsibility is simply ridiculous. Of course, arriving at work late and missing that important meeting was the boss' fault or maybe the children's fault or possibly the partner's fault. Perhaps planning to arrive at work fifteen minutes early every morning would have solved that situation. Taking

personal responsibility for the event or condition would have placed the burden where it was needed, and your life would have seen marked improvement!

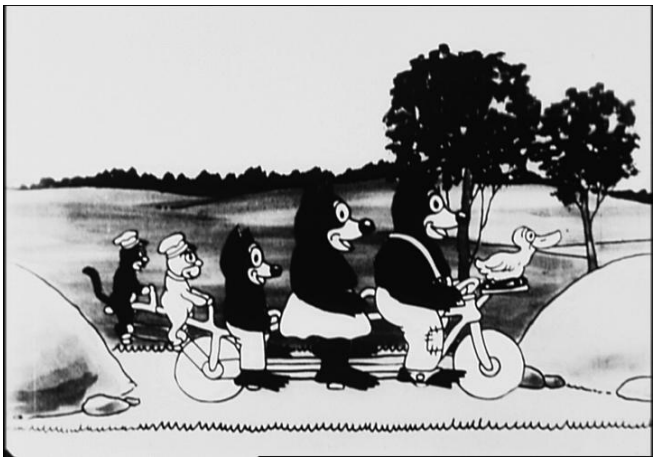
Internalization is a variant of blaming negativity. Your flat tire while driving to work was the result of statistical randomness that 1 in 100,000 vehicles or so will get a flat tire along the roads in that part of the town. Your number came up in the random pool! Don't be so hard on yourself! And, you should be looking for the opportunity it brings to meet someone from the event that you may not have otherwise have met.

Conditionals of negativism involve placing an "if" at the front of a statement to create a make-believe event or condition. If you had the college education or the $100,000 per year income, you could accomplish the goals that you desire. Clearly this is a pointless, act of negativism that some call hope, but it is more of a "wish." The answer is clear. Make a plan with measurable milestones to get that education or $100,000 per year income. This will create the momentum or drive to propel you forward.

Blocking Hope – In Work and Career

You may be an employee. You may be an employer. Walt Disney was both. When he worked for the Kansas City Star Newspaper, he had a lot of creative ideas. After all, he was Walt Disney. However, during his short tenure there, he was not permitted to attempt his ideas and lost all hope. His performance faded. Soon he was fired. It is stated he was fired for lack of creativity.

Soon, after that, Walt Disney went out on his own with investment funding in 1921 to produce. It was a creative venture that did not catch the market's eye, but he used the experience to hone his creative skills. He managed to get a marketing success with his Oswald the Rabbit creation, but then learned that he needed to protect his intellectual property before taking it to investors. Universal Studios patented it.



The moral of the story of blocking hope was demonstrated when Walt Disney in 1966 purchased ABC. Kansas City Star Newspaper, the paper that prevented Disney from applying his creative genius while under their employ, is owned by ABC. The creative capacities of people under supervision and employee have great talent and assets. Allowing them to spin their creativity generates profit and success for the owner. And, should they decide to move out as an independent maintaining them as a friendly competitor builds respect and yields higher profits.

Macy's of New York City, the inventor of the world's most successful marketing icon "Santa Claus," recognized this very fact when it promoted its new business credo. Macy's did so using a marketing movie in 1947, "Miracle on 34th Street," which introduced Santa Claus, and later its annual "Macy's" parade.

In short, regardless if Macy's had the product or service, the theme was that the customer would be served. Using its competitors, Macy's directed customers to competitors for those products or services it lacked. In doing so, Macy's extended its market to include all of what the competitors had and benefited from the goodwill for having satisfied the needs of the customer quickly and conveniently.

King Solomon's words in Proverbs 13:12 are repeated here: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but desire fulfilled is as a tree of life." Employers who defer the hope of their staff quench productivity and quiet creativity for another day. The motivation or drive is lost. Eventually, commitment to the job or project drops and there is left only an employee who is earning a paycheck.

Blocking Hope – In Relationships

King Solomon wrote several books of the Bible. These were dedicated to the most important factors of life, based on his experiences with being the wisest man in history. He wrote Ecclesiastes to describe his experience of trying every known vanity a human can know and discovered "vanity of vanities…all is vanity!" (Ecclesiastes 12:8). He wrote the book of Proverbs to detail his wisdom that resulted from experiencing so much futility. He wrote in the last chapter of Proverbs a dedication to the value of a spouse or wife, describing the credits due that partner. Finally, King Solomon dedicated an entire book to the importance of promoting hope in a relationship, the Song of Solomon.

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Relationships, most especially between life-partners, end in separation from despair and loss of hope if not maintained appropriately. No relationship can withstand abandonment, decay, and disrespect. King Solomon learned this valued lesson and described vital skills needed to foster a healthy partnership.

There was a time when pop-culture attempted to blend genders to having identical behaviors and identical responses. Even identical thought patterns. This practice was built on an agenda of establishing gender equality. With that agenda mostly solved in many cultures, the gender differences have once, again become accepted in psychology. King Solomon never departed from the original theme! In Proverbs 31:31 he warns, "Give her credit for what she has accomplished, and let her works praise her in the city gates."

Then in Song of Solomon 1:15-16 King Solomon notes, "(Man to Woman) How beautiful you are, my darling, how beautiful! Your eyes are like doves. (Woman to Man) You are so handsome, my love, pleasing beyond words!"

King Solomon identified two very tangible, critical components to a relationship. Understandably, these have nothing to do with the need for sex! It is very different.

First partners must recognize and respect each role the other person performs. When a partner has taken the effort to display their talents in a unique way, commend them. Do not just commend them privately, but "in the city gates."

Dale Carnegie, the great orator of confidence and persuasion, is known for writing the third most popular book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People." He dedicates several chapters to variations of the "compliments" theme recommending that each subject in his descriptions was "hearty in my approbation and lavish in my praise."

Carnegie then dedicated several chapters to relationships. Relationship health was central to an individual's success, according to Carnegie.

Recognizing a partner's or spouse's accomplishment's in the presence of others creates dramatic energy or hope when performed with an honest approach absent any personal agenda. In short, a public compliment multiplies your personal compliment because it shows a higher level of respect for your partner.

The second tangible, critical component King Solomon identified in a relationship is partners must practice romance.

This is not sex. Romance is recognizing the attractive features that first drew the two together and returning to that through artistry, music, tradition, and words. These are unique to each couple. Song of Solomon outlines the pattern of romance, but it is quite clear that a couple requires tangible, physical supports to restore hope repeatedly.

For some individuals, true romance is a foreign topic. Romance is soft words. "(Man to Woman) How beautiful you are, my darling, how beautiful! Your eyes are like doves. (Woman to Man) You are so handsome, my love, pleasing beyond words!"(Song of Solomon 1:15-16). Romance is traditions with trips to the places where you first kissed or got engaged. Romance is the warm embrace. Romance is the quick phone call or handwritten note hidden in a special place. Without the instruments of romance, hope is quenched and blocked.

Take these two critical components away, and the fire or drive that motivates the relationship evaporates. Hope is lost. The partners separate for want of these missing components! Hope, a physical and real part of the relationship has been blocked.

Promoting Hope – The Answer

To King Solomon, hope was a very real thing. You could feel it, touch it, taste it, smell it, and see it. Hope was equated with vision. Hope was a valued item like money in the bank that could be built up with many deposits or lost with senseless withdrawals. For King Solomon, the answer to promoting hope was to create a skill to make many deposits with very little withdrawals!

So, in Proverbs 13:19, King Solomon penned, "Desire accomplished is sweet to the soul…" Leaving deposits to satisfy and promote hope assures the motivation needed to see a goal to completion. Drive, therefore, is the result of seasoning hope with vision.

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When you approach a bend in the corner of a road, there is risk and fear about what lies at the end of the road. Vision is lost. Seeing the end-point is impossible. Many blockades act as withdrawals to prevent hope from reaching the bend in the corner. Travel to see the next stretch ahead is hampered.

Reminders of what the end-point looks like or repeated visualizations places fresh deposits of hope in the bank. Drive is renewed. Travel past the bend in the road is possible.

So, what is this visualization that renews drive and places fresh deposits of hope for motivation? Consider a dream vacation or retirement house. Does it just arrive on your doorstep in the morning? No! You set a goal to have the house. Then, you create a plan for how you will go about getting the land, building the building, laying out the landscape and paying the expenses.

This entire plan, though, quickly loses drive or motivation without some visual cues. A budget is built to pay the expenses. Then, a building plan is prepared to design the structure and the floors and the rooms.

More detail is added to the fixtures and landscape. These added details give you a visualization of the vacation or retirement house as if it was already built, but it still only exists in the plans.

To sustain your drive and to ensure your accuracy of the project you refer to these plans and budget frequently. Daily. This restores deposits to your hope bank. You see the house as if it were there. Eventually, you see the house the way you planned it!

Visualization is a practice that offsets the deferment of hope. It helps you chart your path to see what you are missing or needing as if it is already there. It creates a tangible product to remind how very real your hope is. Value is restored to your hope. Vision creates the drive that motivates hope!

Practice – To Introduce Diligence Into Your Life

For this exercise, you will explore strategies to strengthen your hopes or dreams by placing a tangible face on them. When you can visualize your hopes, you will be encouraged to press on, overcoming obstacles and frustration. Limitations will be meaningless because you can focus on your purpose and the plan the gets you that purpose.

Deferred hopes often limit visualization. As you have just learned, these deferred hopes are obstacles to seeing around the bend in the road and rob you of drive and inner motivation. Deferred hopes are frequently seen in a career and work as well as in relationships. However, deferred hopes most commonly center on self-limiting beliefs.

Take some time to create a visualization chart. Begin by listing those hopes you have had that, over time, were blocked by the actions of others. It may have been a word or deed, but your hope was dashed. Jot down one or two words for each.

Move on to filling in the visualization chart those hopes that were blocked by those decisions you made by you, alone! You chose to limit your actions, and this stifled your hope. Maybe it was the choice to not attempt college, apply for that challenging job assignment, or even start down the path of entrepreneurship. As a result, your inner motivation was lost. You find you have been coasting along ever since.

Then, in your visualization chart list look at yourself to see where you have blocked the hopes of others. You have done this, as well! By word or deed, you dashed someone's hopes. Start with someone with whom you have a relationship. This will not be hard to find a few things, but it will be painful. It will certainly give you the opportunity to make an adjustment to unblock their hope and allow their inner motivation and drive!

Having listed these shortcomings on your visualization chart, begin anew. Write your hopes on your visualization chart as if nothing limited you or blocked your path. When you have marked these down, go and ask your partner what their hopes are. You may be amazed to find you will learn something! Now, write this down on your visualization chart because you will want to adopt these into your corporate goals.

If you have others in your relationship, such as children and other dependents, ask them what their hopes are. Write these down on your visualization chart. Their hopes may not be what you envision for them, and that could be what has been blocking their hopes in the first place!

THE THIRD WISDOM: FINDING COUNSEL

The Earth Return Vehicle or ERV-1 rocket for Mars is designed to travel lightly to the fourth planet, Mars, ahead of the human crew. Onboard the ERV-1 it deploys from its empty cargo tanks a small power plant. This power plant slowly generates and stores return power needed for the humans who will arrive on the second, Earth Return Vehicle, ERV-2, a few years later. This power is the methane hydrogen found freely on Mars.

The later, second rocket, ERV-2 will carry humans to Mars. The crew aboard the ERV-2 would not normally be able to return to Earth using ERV-1, except for the effective partnering that ERV-1 provides by nurturing return fuel support that turbocharges the blast-off and flight. Martin Marietta aerospace engineer Dr. Robert Zubrin designed the early 1990's Mars Direct project under contract for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This streamlined, ten-year mission was ultimately never funded. Still, its central principle of success depended entirely on an effective partner, the ERV-1, to turbo charger the mission for a safe return.

Entering into the fray of a new adventure without support is unwise. On the other hand, enlisting the aid of wisely chosen partners cannot only boost you to a successful outcome, but propel you with much stronger force at a faster pace. Your chances of missteps are less likely, and your confidence is ensured.

King Solomon, the wisest of men in history, knew the value of effective partnering when he penned in Proverbs 15:22, "Without counsel plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed." The counsel of the effective partner is oil to the machine of progress. More often than not, a counselor is effective because they can see things that you cannot. This saves you energy from chasing down meaningless paths that don't have the potential for a desirable outcome.

Your effective partner can point you to ideas, concepts, and methods that are more effective, efficient, and productive. This allows you to move on to other tasks as you leapfrog your way to the destination. Your effective partner is, thus, your turbocharger. Everything you do is multiplied with exponential benefit.

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Most individuals, bent on self-centered vanity, miss this opportunity to turbo charge successful ventures. Instead, they plod along. This is the trial-and-error method, sometimes referred to as the "school of hard knocks." It is to your advantage to seize upon your treasured assets, turbocharge your plan, and reach your goal with ease or ahead of schedule. Given the laws of probability for obstacles to settle in your pathway you will need your counseling asset to ride the waves as they roll in your direction.

Defining A Counseling Partner

So far, your effective partner or counselor has been considered for their value only. This is a generic concept. But, what, specifically, defines an effective partner? You will know you have a truly effective partner who counsels you with meaningful and supportive material when that person has certain essential criteria.

First, your partner, to be effective, must have keen perception skills. It is critical that the person you select to counsel you and come alongside you to give you effective partnering resonate with you. If you are not on the same wavelength, you will not harmonize. You will know when your partner is humming along with the same tune that you are! Now this does not mean they are just saying "yes" to you, since they often have to speak with words that are different from yours. Still, their theme is aligned with yours.

The dolphin or porpoise, water-based mammals, employ an amazing sonar device called echolocation to help neighboring dolphins or porpoises navigate. This highly perceptive partnering tool improves graphic images by creating three-dimensional patterns to improve performance. With this keen perceptive talent muddy or limited vision waters are not an obstacle to neighboring partners.

Second, your counsel has wisdom. To be wise includes knowing when to speak and when to remain silent. King Solomon noticed in Proverbs 17:27-28, "He that has knowledge spares his words; and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise; and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."

Third, your counsel has a capacity for giving timely advice. Your effective partner keeps their knowledge to themselves and speaks to you only when it is needed. In Proverbs 12:23(a) King Solomon writes, "A prudent man conceals knowledge…"

Wouldn't it be nice to have someone who has been in your shoes to guide you? Wouldn't it be nice for them to speak up just before you fall flat on your face to make a suggestion for another option that you should at least consider? Most everything has been done before, at least in concept. Having that effective person by your side to catch you just as you are about to make a big mistake is a wonderful asset. This is the secret, turbo charging resource that allows you to sidestep unnecessary obstacles. You can move on to more challenging tasks and realize your goal sooner.

Fourth, your counsel gives you useful resources so you can realize your plan and experience your goal. King Solomon reminds us the value of rubbing against the strengths of like-minded individuals who are focused on the same values. In Proverbs 27:17 he writes, "Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the features of a friend." Only in an effective partner will you find the gutsy integrity and determination needed to strengthen your resolve to see your plan to the end.

When you contract with a true counselor, they will promote in you the very best that you can deliver! The Green Bay Packers, a demoralized American football team in the late 1950's, decided to align their goals with a coach that insisted on rigid standards. This new coach worked with the discouraged team as if sleep were not a requirement. Vince Lombardi demanded a positive-only mindset of the team that saw victory at the end of the season, not just in each game.

Leaving no room for negativity in the locker-room or the playing field, Lombardi sharpened iron against iron to give the needed resources the Packers needed. History shows that the team won the first two Super Bowls of 1967 and 1968 after a run of five National Football League (NFL) championships starting in 1961.

Drawbacks - Risks To Avoiding The Effective Partner Asset

The concept of turbo charging has repeatedly been used as an analogy to adding the power of an effective partner to your plan for reaching your end-point. Exponential rewards await those who tap the asset of a human who understands your mission and can get you there more efficiently and effectively. But what about the drawbacks? What are the risks you run when you avoid using a partner, altogether?

First, your plans will suffer from obstacles. Inevitably, the law of probabilities will catch up with you. Random occurrences of chance will soon settle on you and obstacles will come to roost. No matter how much you prepare for every contingency, there will be more complications that you have not considered.

Nature is dynamic and ever changing. Conditions of the plan must change since you cannot be in control of everything. Improvements in technology and unplanned losses from equipment and personnel changes are two of the most notable obstacles. Without your effective partner by your side, you are left to flounder like a fish out of water.

King Solomon realized this as he penned in Proverbs 15:22, “Without counsel purposes are disappointed but in the multitude of counselors they are established.” Your counselor has already traveled these waters before in some capacity and could have helped navigate you through smoother waters. But, you are out there, alone.

Second, you will endure setbacks. Try as you might, you will exhaust your personal resources. Remember, you are out there alone. These are not just obstacles, but complete failures. These are the times when you take two steps forward and find you are taking another step back. Why? You have limited skill sets to draw upon.

King Solomon realized this when he wrote in Proverbs 11:14, “Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

Launching a new venture takes a lot of courage. Fear is the opposite of courage. Your effective partner can protect you from fear using a deeper knowledge base as your foundation.

Third, you will have monetary loss. I don't know about you, but flailing along with a new venture or striving to reach a goal without a partner while spraying money in all directions, unnecessarily is a needless waste. King Solomon thought so too. In Proverbs 13:18 he wrote, "Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction, but he that regards reproof shall be honored." Having a counselor would certainly direct a more thrifty adventure.

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Richard Branson attempted a business venture chasing an opportunity without enlisting the wisdom of his effective partners on one of his more free-spirited moments. The result? Virgin Cola. If you have not had a drink of Virgin Cola, you are not alone.

Fourth, you will have embarrassment. Proverbs 3:35, King Solomon states, "The wise will have glory for their heritage, but shame will be the reward of the foolish." The connection to an individual refusing instruction is again seen in Proverbs 9:8 when Solomon says, "Reprove not a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you." It is most important to accept guidance before you turn your head to tell someone "no" as they are offering assistance, then you step into a large hole.

Advantages – Benefits For Enlisting Your Effective Partner Asset

First, you will achieve what you set out to do! King Solomon could not say enough in Proverbs about how valued an effective partner is to turbocharging your plan. In Proverbs 20:18 he said, "Every purpose is established by counsel." In short, he considered your partner to be essential to success.

Second, you will lower your risk portfolio. Proverbs 24:6 from King Solomon reveals, "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war; and in a multitude of counselors there is safety." To Solomon having only one effective partner was not enough. He believed that several voices added more turbocharged power to the plan. When you consider each voice provides another point of view that is not yours, you assemble an arsenal of strength to reduce the risk of any venture.

In good military commands, as in strong corporate leadership, the individual who makes the final decision is often not the person who creates the original idea. Instead, specialized counselors or advisors are expected to take their turn to voice a professional opinion in the face of a presented situation. The commander weighs the advice, now equipped with the turbocharged knowledge from multiple, highly skilled and educated individuals and commits to a decision. The decision belongs to the commander.

Similarly, your multiple effective partners can voice differing and sometimes conflicting advice that opens your eyes to the opportunity. This gives you infinitely more powerful options than you would have had before. You forge ahead with markedly lowered risks.

Third, you will learn a level of insight you would not before had access to. In short, you gain wisdom for yourself! And, having learned it first-hand you can take the knowledge to practice through experiences in the remainder of your life. King Solomon commented on this in Proverbs 13:20 with, "He that walks with wise men shall be wise…"

When an individual finishes college, regardless the degree, there is a change that takes place in the way they approach life. It has nothing to do with the parties. It has nothing to do with treating others differently. Rather, it has to do with approaching life with an open mind. The wisdom of experience has etched a permanent capacity to consider other points of view.

Fourth, your effective partner remains an active counselor into the future. This is a commitment, not just a contract. Your effective partner has become the equivalent of a blood-brother. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 King Solomon writes, "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion."

Remember, when you select your effective partner they are going to watch you and protect you. They are going to be available to respond to your need even when it is not office hours. These are truly unique individuals.

Fifth, having a counselor or several by your side makes forging or passing through obstacles quite easy! At the very least, you have the confidence of your effective partner's support and knowledge base. From there, you have their wider foundation of experience to campaign against what is fearful for you, but familiar territory to them. King Solomon said it best in Ecclesiastes 4:12 when he said, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

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Sixth, greater margins of achievement are available to you. The turbo charging component of the effective partner thrusts you ahead of your interferences. You move into clear air where you can maneuver and be productive.

Clues – Attributes Of A Dangerous Counseling Partner

King Solomon does warn that not everyone is well-suited to serve as your counselor or effective partner. In Proverbs 25:19 he writes, "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint." Let's face it; all of society is raised in an atmosphere of negativism. So, it's not unreasonable to assume that the vast majority of individuals are ill-equipped for this important task!

Additionally, this person will affect the outcome of your goal. If they add a poisoned brew to your well-flavored soup, you will have a ruined product. You want to turbo charge your plan with only the best selection possible. Take a moment and consider the following warning signs before asking them to partner with you.

First, a person who has difficulty with honesty should be avoided. King Solomon launched a sharp criticism in Proverbs 29:24 with "Whoever is partner with a thief hates his own soul." Just do not allow a person of dishonest means into your base camp. It is rather easy to track the footprints of a person with shady integrity. Take a moment to interview people or review feedback that others have to report about your potential partner.

Your potential partner may have difficulties with legal matters, challenges with accounting issues, and a history of business relationships that may complicate your plan's potential. Your intentions must remain morally high at all times. Avoiding a person with this background will keep your outcome from trouble in the future.

Second, distance yourself from a potential partner who is quick to anger. King Solomon invests several passages in Proverbs to this topic. In Proverbs 22:24 he states, "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go." In verse 25 he adds, "Or you might learn his ways, and get a snare to your soul."

In Proverbs 25:28 he adds, "He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Proverbs 29:22 from King Solomon includes "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression."

It almost goes without saying that King Solomon was adamant that you must remain a good distance from a person who has a problem with their temper. Most definitely, you don't want to make them your colleague. Of course, Solomon is not saying that you must be rude to the individual, but a clear boundary must be made, so their thinking does not contaminate yours. This is equal to taking a negative mindset and compounding it at your very foundation. Just save yourself all the agony. You have an enjoyable life to live!

Third, avoid foolish behaving people at all costs. King Solomon similarly scorned the person who acted without thinking. In Proverbs 14:7, he penned, "Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge." Realize that this is the same King Solomon who studied vanity in all its colors and wrote an entire book about it in Ecclesiastes.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4(b), 5(a) "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven…a time to laugh, a time to dance; a time to work." You want a partner who understands the difference between the seriousness of the tasks of your plan and the end-point you envision. An individual who cannot become serious about your goal is a danger to your success.

Fourth, be cautious around those who sound "too good to be true." They aren't. King Solomon, in Proverbs 28:20 note that "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he that makes quick to be rich shall not be innocent." When your heart tells you there is a trick to the story, there is a trick to the story!

Fifth, limit all contact with potential partners who attempt to make you appear "too good to be true." You aren't! There are slick salespeople at every corner.

King Solomon addressed this frequently. In Proverbs 29:5 he cautioned, “A man that flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.” Then, in Proverbs 26:28, King Solomon wrote, “A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”

Artificially inflated promises are the very opposite from what you are seeking from an effective partner. Your partner, the true counselor, must be your alter ego to catch your limitations and compensate for your weaknesses. These comedy acts merely accentuate your weaknesses, a shrewd practice of the fast talker.

Sixth, if a potential counselor speaks badly about other people they are to be avoided. Remember, if they can speak badly about other people they will quickly get around to you. This is negativism. It is not acceptable supportive material to have near you when you are establishing a positive mindset.

King Solomon abhorred negativism. In Proverbs 20:19 he wrote, “He that goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flatters with his lips.” Negativism in any form will destroy all your efforts.

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Seven, protect and defend boundaries whether they are personal, social or legal. If your potential partner cannot do the same then avoid them. King Solomon penned in Proverbs 28:7, “Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.”

Boundaries are meant to protect respect and defend against anarchy. Boundaries are the basis of the “golden rule” of doing to others as you would have done to yourself. Boundaries are also the basis of the “silver rule” of Confucianism, which is “What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others."

Keys – Understanding How To Identify An Effective Partner Asset

To begin your process of selecting a truly wonderful effective partner as your resource asset, remember the clues to avoid and then ensure the individual does what they say they do. Stated another way, take a moment to see evidence of the person walking the path that proves what they say is truthful. You want to be proud of your counselor!

Remember, you want someone who shares the same dream you have. You don't want them to think the same way. If they did one of you would be useless to the project! Your effective partner should rub against you and force you to think; your partner should always see things from a different angle, a different point of view. This view is usually from experience.

Note that you are best served when the partner has talents and strengths that compensate for your weaknesses. So, it pays to take a few moments to self-assess for your strengths and weaknesses. You always work best when you focus only on your strengths. Leave your weaknesses to your partner!

This leads to the requirement of commitment. Your effective partner must demonstrate willingness to contract with you for the long-term investment. You have already confirmed they are of a positive-only mindset, a mandatory requirement.

Finally, a partner who simply tells you where to go is a useless counselor. Your partner must lead by example, as in the example of American football coach, Vince Lombardi.

Practice – To Identify And Enlist Effective Partners

For this exercise, you will explore strategies to identify and enlist individuals as your effective partners. You will need to recall the "Clues" for dangerous and "Keys" for truly effective partners. Then, decide what goal or end-point you are planning to enlist your effective partner to commit to supporting you. This outcome may be a professional venture or a more personal achievement. Both have tremendous value and time commitment.

Brainstorm those individuals who have a background or strength in the professional venture or personal achievement project you seek. Rank-order their "strength of merit" to the project and then itemize your current relationship with them. You may not have any current relationship with them!

Now, take some time to explore the backgrounds of the individuals you have listed. This is the time that you will identify their strengths, weaknesses, habits, and most especially any "clues" and "keys." For those who you have no contact, plan to interview them at a coffee shop by meeting them for 30 minutes to have a small lunch, tea, or coffee. Allow them to share their experiences.

Contacting them via email, social media, or casual meeting does not matter. The 30-minute chat is what counts. Realize that almost everyone is excited, because of self-centered drive, to talk about themselves! Of course, send a thank you message, preferably as a card. Then, repeat the process with the next potential partner until you have completed your "interview" process.

You now have 3 secret wisdoms of Solomon in your hands. But there are so many more secrets in this world that have been kept from you. In order for you to truly transform your life, you must know these secrets. These are the secrets that have granted

emperors and kings of ancient times near infinite wealth and success, and the kind of life that legends are made of.

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Winter Vee